

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE INDIANA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
April 15, 2021**

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the State Ethics Commission (“Commission”) was called to order at 10:09 a.m. The meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams. Commission members present were Katherine Noel, chair; Corinne Finnerty; and Kenneth Todd. Staff present included David Cook, Inspector General; Tiffany Mulligan, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Inspector General; Jennifer Cooper, State Ethics Director; Luba Gore, Staff Attorney, Office of Inspector General; Cindy Scruggs, Administrative Director, Office of Inspector General; Mike Lepper, Investigator, Office of Inspector General; and Nathan Baker, Legal Assistant, Office of Inspector General.

Others present were: Deana Smith, Ethics Officer, Indiana State Department of Health; Tamera Glickman, Deputy General Counsel, Indiana Department of Administration; Sylvia Watson, General Counsel and Ethics Officer, Indiana State Library; Latosha N. Higgins, Managing Attorney/Ethics Officer, Family and Social Services Administration; Beth Green, General Counsel & Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Workforce Development; Kristi Shute, Deputy General Counsel and Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Homeland Security; Amber Nicole Ying, Special Counsel/Director, Compliance and Ethics and Ethics Officer, Department of Revenue; Rachel Russell, Interim General Counsel and Ethics Officer, Department of Child Services; Ed Feigenbaum, Indiana Legislative Insight; Breanca Merritt, FSSA, Chief Health Equity and ADA Officer; Hala Kuss, Northwest Regional Office Director, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Bruno Pigott, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; Alex Van Gorp, Staff Attorney, Indiana Department of Health; Jessica Keyes, Staff Attorney, Family and Social Services Administration; Kathleen Mills, Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Environmental Management; and Whitney Fritz, Staff Attorney, Department of Child Services.

II. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Todd moved to adopt the Agenda and Commissioner Finnerty seconded the motion which passed (4-0).

Commissioner Todd moved to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2021 Commission Meeting and Commissioner Gilroy seconded the motion which passed (3-0).

III. Consideration of Waiver of Post-Employment Restrictions for Hala Kuss

Bruno Pigott, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management; and Kathleen Mills, Ethics Officer of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, presented the proposed Waiver of Post-Employment Restrictions in this matter to the Commission for their approval.

Commissioner Todd moved to approve the Waiver, and Commissioner Finnerty seconded the motion which passed (3-0).

IV. Director's Report

State Ethics Director, Jen Cooper, stated that OIG staff has issued 40 informal advisory opinions since the previous last meeting. The majority of these requests dealt with questions concerning conflicts of interests, use of state property, ghost employment, outside employment, post-employment and gifts.

Director Cooper continued that the preliminary planning process for this summer's Auditor & Investigator Conference has started. A survey was sent out to last year's attendees to solicit feedback on what kind of topics and speakers they would find more helpful so OIG can try to plan an event to best meet their training needs.

Finally, OIG staff attorney Kelly Elliott, who had been with our office since 2017, has transferred to a different state agency and OIG is in the process of filling her role. Hopefully next month Director Cooper will be able to introduce a new staff attorney to the Commission.

V. Adjournment

Commissioner Todd moved to adjourn the public meeting of the State Ethics Commission and Commissioner Finnerty seconded the motion, which passed (3-0).

The public meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.